GHOST RIDER

FEAR ITSELF

WILLIAMS CLARK PARSONS SCHWAGER

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REGENESIS
ISSUE ONE
CHOOSE YOUR TEAM!
#XMenRegenesis
OCTOBER 2011
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JOHNNY BLAZE WAS CURSED TO WANDER THE EARTH AS THE GHOST RIDER, EXISTING ONLY TO UNLEASH FURIOUS VENGEANCE TO SINNERS AND EVILDOERS.

SO WHEN A MYSTERIOUS STRANGER CALLING HIMSELF ADAM OFFERED TO TAKE THE CURSE FROM HIM, JOHNNY DIDN'T HESITATE. ADAM SUCCEEDED IN RIPPING THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE FROM JOHNNY'S SOUL.

BUT ADAM'S INTENTIONS WERE LESS THAN NOBLE. HE INTENDS TO USE THE GHOST RIDER AS A WEAPON TO BURN SINFUL HUMANITY FROM THE PLANET.

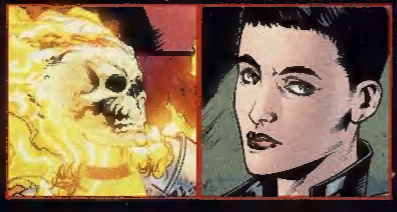
ADAM HAD RAISED A YOUNG GIRL NAMED ALEJANDRA TO BECOME THE NEW HOST FOR THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE. AFTER WREAKING HAVOC ON EARTH, THE TWO HAVE TRAVELED TO SPACE TO DELIVER THE KILLING BLOW TO A SINFUL WORLD.

NOW JOHNNY MUST FIGHT TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE FLAMES OF JUDGMENT.

JOHNNY MUST FACE THE

GHOST RIDER

JOHNNY



GHOST RIDER, ALEJANDRA

ADAM

MEPHISTO

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MATTHEW CLARK — PENCILER

SEAN PARSONS — INKER

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I THOUGHT THERE'D BE STARS.
BUT ALL I SEE IS COLOR...
...SURROUNDED BY A HUNGRY DARKNESS.
I'M EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD.
MY NAME IS ALEJANDRA.
I AM THE GHOST RIDER.
UNTIL YESTERDAY, I'D NEVER LEFT THE LANDS SURROUNDING THE TEMPLE.
NEVER ONCE BEEN OUTSIDE.
AND NOW I'M GOING TO SAVE THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE.

THIS SPACE STATION WE'RE STANDING ON HAS CAPTURED IMAGES KNOWN AS THE ULTRA DEEP FIELD.
THAT'S ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF GALAXIES SO FAR AWAY THEY EXISTED JUST FOUR-HUNDRED MILLION YEARS AFTER THE BIG BANG.
THEIR LIGHT TAKES THAT LONG TO REACH US.

"AND THIS SPACE STATION TAKES POLAROIDS OF IT. THAT'S ONE HELL OF A POWERFUL TELESCOPIC LENS.

"AND WE'RE GOING TO FOCUS ALL YOUR POWER THROUGH IT STRAIGHT DOWN ONTO PLANET EARTH. LIKE A MAGNIFYING GLASS.

"AND THEN SIN WILL DIE.

"FOREVER."

ADAM SPEAKS BUT I CAN'T HEAR A THING HE SAYS.
HE NEVER TOLD ME THERE'D BE ANOTHER VOICE IN MY HEAD, CONSTANTLY WHISPERING TO ME.
HE NEVER TOLD ME A LOT OF THINGS...
THE VOICE TELLS ME IT'S A DEMON CALLED ZARATHOS AND THAT WE ARE NOW ONE AND IT WANTS TO BE LET OUT.
IT BURNS AND BOILS AND THRASHES INSIDE ME WITH THE NEED FOR VENGEANCE, BUT I KEEP IT LOCKED AWAY.
IT SHOWS ME ACTUAL VISIONS OF HEAVEN AND HELL AND I'M EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD.
IT CAN SMELL SIN IN THE LIVING BUT IT CAN'T EVEN SEE THESE ASTRONAUTS ANYMORE.
ALMOST LIKE I WIPED THEM FROM EXISTENCE WHEN I PURGED THE SIN FROM THEM.
LIKE I DID TO MY FRIENDS BACK IN THE TEMPLE.
ADAM *MADE* ME DO THAT.
ZARATHOS SMELLS SIN.
AND RIGHT NOW IT IS *SCREAMING*.
IT'S TIME, ALEJANDRA.
I'M EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD.

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UPON A TIME
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NICARAGUA.
SORT OF.
MEPHISTO!
I NEED A @#$% SPACE-BIKE!
NOW!
AH, JOHNNY BLAZE.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT WE'RE CURRENTLY CLOSED DUE TO EXTREME NONCHALANCE.
CUT THE CRAP. THERE AIN'T TIME.
YOU CAME TO ME LOOKIN' FOR HELP 'CAUSE YOU WERE TOO WEAK TO HANDLE THE GHOST RIDER YERSELF. AND I HELPED YOUR SUNBURNT ASS.
NOW I NEED A SET OF BUCK ROGERS WHEELS. SERVE 'EM UP SO I CAN SAVE THE DAY.
HMMM... LET ME THINK ABOUT IT.
CLICK
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
NO.

SOME DESTINIES ARE CHOSEN

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HUH?
ROAR
SARTRE SAID THAT "HELL IS OTHER PEOPLE." A NICE LINE, BUT HE WAS WRONG.
HELL IS WHAT I CHOOSE IT TO BE.
YOU CAME TO ME FOR HELP. YOU WANTED ME TO STOP ADAM.
I DO. ADAM AND HIS GENOCIDAL WAR ON SIN THREATENS ME. AND I'D QUITE LIKE TO STAY POWERFUL.
BUT I AM ONLY POWERFUL BECAUSE PEOPLE COME TO ME WITH THINGS THAT THEY DESPERATELY WANT. THINGS ONLY I CAN GIVE THEM.
AND I'M FEELING PRETTY DAMNED POWERFUL RIGHT NOW.
SO, TELL ME, JUST HOW BADLY DO YOU WANT THIS SPACE-BIKE, JOHNNY BLAZE?
HOW RESPONSIBLE DO YOU FEEL FOR WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO THE WORLD?
AND WHAT PRICE ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY TO PREVENT IT?

FIGHT TODAY, SAVE TOMORROW

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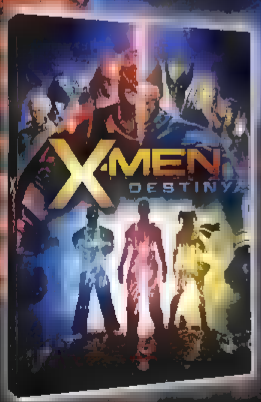
EDGE OF TIME



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YOU'RE SURE THIS IS WHERE SHE IS?
I'M THE SEEKER, MATE. FINDING THE GHOST RIDER'S MY RAISON D'ETRE. AND THAR SHE BLOWS! DEAD AHEAD!
I'M HERE TO ENSURE SHE FOLLOWS HER CHOSEN ROLE. TO BECOME GOD'S OWN...
SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
A BIBLICAL WARRIOR SENT TO BRING RETRIBUTION DOWN ON THOSE WHO *REALLY* DESERVE IT.
TESTIFY!
SHE'S A GIRL. A *YOUNG* GIRL.
AND RIGHT NOW SHE'S SCARED, IN PAIN AND IS CLINGING ON TO WHAT'S LEFT OF HER SANITY BY HER FINGERNAILS.
AND YOU'RE JUST ONE MORE SUPERNATURAL FREAK JOB SET ON MAKING THE GHOST RIDER *YOUR* WEAPON WITHOUT A THOUGHT FOR THE PERSON INSIDE.
SENSING I MAY HAVE FAUX PAS'ED.
YOU AIN'T A BAD GUY FOR A ZOMBIE. AND COULD BE I'LL REGRET THIS LATER. WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST THING I'VE REGRETTED.
BUT YOU JUST WANT TO USE THE GHOST RIDER.
THUMP

BOOM
SORRY, HOSS.
WAY PAST TIME I PUT FOLKS LIKE YOU IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR.
UMMM...
IS THERE A PARACHUTE ON THIS?
BIG SPACE TELESCOPE!
AND A REALLY THICK, INTIMIDATING DOOR BUILT FOR AN UPSIDE-DOWN SPACE SHUTTLE!
NO POSSIBLE WAY IN, HUH?

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LUCKILY, A BAD SOUL BUYS YOU GOOD WEAPONRY.
BOOOOM
ERM...
YOU'RE ONLY SUPPOSED TO BLOW THE BLOODY DOORS OFF.
THAT... LOOKED KINDA EXPENSIVE, TOO.
MAY NOT BE THE STEALTHIEST B&E...
BUT I AM ENTERING, NONETHELESS.

I SHOULD BE TERRIFIED WHEN I HEAR THE EXPLOSIONS, WHEN THE GROUND MOVES AND THE STATION THREATENS TO FALL APART AROUND US AT ANY SECOND.
NOW! IT HAS TO BE NOW!
LISTEN TO ME! THE SERPENT IS TURNING THE EARTH INTO AN ABATTOIR RIGHT NOW!
THERE IS NO HOPE FOR HUMANITY! EVEN IF IT SURVIVES HIS WAR, SIN IS TOO STRONG!
WELL, SOMETHING INSIDE TELLS ME THIS IS A FREEWAY.
I KNOW, ALEJANDRA! I WAS THERE AT ITS CREATION.
I WAS HIS SACRIFICE.
THEY SAY GOOD INTENTIONS PAVE THE ROAD TO HELL.
YOU DON'T KNOW THE GUILT I'VE SUFFERED OVER THE LONG YEARS.
THE PAIN.
AND THIS IS THE MOMENT I FINALLY END HIS CRUEL EXPERIMENT.
THE POWER BUILDS AND THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP IT.

JEEZ, YOU'D THINK THEY'D HAVE SOME KIND OF BIG SUPERTHICK DOOR TO STOP EXPLOSIVE DECOMPRESSI...
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
HEY! THERE IT IS! SCI-FI MOVIES TEACH US WELL!
AND IT'S GOING TO CRUSH ME AND MY FUNKY SPACE BIKE TO A...
RRRRRRRRR
CRUNCH
...PULP.
UNNNNHHHH!
UH. HI!
AM I OKAY TO PARK HERE?

HRRRHH
HRRRHH
AW, MAN...
SHE LOBOTOMIZED ASTRONAUTS.
@$%& AIN'T RIGHT.
YOU GUYS ARE HEROES.
YOU DESERVE BETTER.
HELL, WE ALL DO.
"I'M SORRY.
"SORRY FOR ALL THE PAIN MY WEAK AND SELFISH MIND HAS CAUSED."

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"CAUSED ALL SORTS OF WRONG WHEN I GAVE UP THE RIDER.
"SO NOW I'M GOING TO PUT THINGS RIGHT."
OH, HEY...
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY.
"A FLAMING SKULL, ANGELS, DEMONS AND WE'RE STANDING ON A GIANT SPACE TELESCOPE.
"OH GOD, I'M IN A ROCK ALBUM."

I'M GOING TO EXPLODE.
I WANT TO SCREAM BUT IT STICKS ■ MY THROAT. I WANT TO STOP THIS BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW.
POWERFUL PEOPLE KNOW HOW AND I AM NOT A POWERFUL PERSON.
STOP THIS.
I...CAN'T... HE CONTROLS ME.
IT'S TOO [illegible] FOR SOMEONE... LIKE ME.
BULL!
THIS IS YOUR POWER, YOU CAN CONTROL IT.
ADAM... ADAM RAISED ME FOR THIS. TRAINED ME.
HE MADE ME, AND I'M JUST...I'M... JUST...

YOU'RE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO BE!
LISTEN TO ME: WHATEVER'S HAPPENED TO YOU IN THE PAST, WHOEVER YOU'VE BEEN UP TO THIS POINT, WHATEVER HE OR ANYONE TELLS YOU THAT YOU ARE...
THERE'S NO CURSE. TOOK ME WAY TOO LONG TO REALIZE THAT.
THERE'S ONLY ACTIONS!
HEAVEN AND HELL? $%&% 'EM BOTH.
BE WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO BE.
BOOM
NICE WORDS. EMPTY WORDS, JOHNNY BLAZE.
LOOK WHAT CHOICE HAS DONE TO THE HUMAN RACE.
LOOK WHAT CHOICE DID TO ME!

YOU THINK I WANTED TO BE THE ONE WHO CREATED ALL SIN?
WE WERE SO HAPPY! AT PEACE! BUT HE KNEW I'D BE CURIOUS! KNEW I COULDN'T RESIST!
SO HE MADE ME THE ORIGINAL SIN!
HE CONNED ME! AND I HAVE LIVED IN SHAME AND GUILT EVERY LONG DAY EVER SINCE!
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I'VE CARRIED THAT? HOW LONG I'VE LIVED?! HOW LONG I'VE SEEN MY ACTIONS RIP MANKIND APART!
I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! I TOOK THE CHILDREN AS BABIES! TRAINED THEM FOR THIS ROLE! THIS MOMENT!
THE MOMENT WHERE I...
WAIT...
ORIGINAL SIN?
THIS WAR OF HIS. HE WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE AMENDS FOR HIS OWN MISTAKES...
ADAM RAISED ME FROM NOTHING, TAUGHT ME TO BE A WARRIOR, WAS THE ONLY FATHER I'VE EVER KNOW.
HE TAUGHT ME TO FIGHT.
AND IT'S WAY PAST TIME I MADE MY OWN DECISIONS ON WHAT TO FIGHT FOR.
DAMN, DAD...

SKELEON ASS!
DUDE WANTED THE GHOST RIDER.
DUDE GETS THE GHOST RIDER.
"BEEN A HELLUVA RIDE."

AND JUST LIKE THAT.
I'M OUT.

MAGNETO
NOT A HERO
WRITTEN BY
SKOTTIE YOUNG
ART BY
CLAY MANN
WHAT DID YOU
EXPECT?
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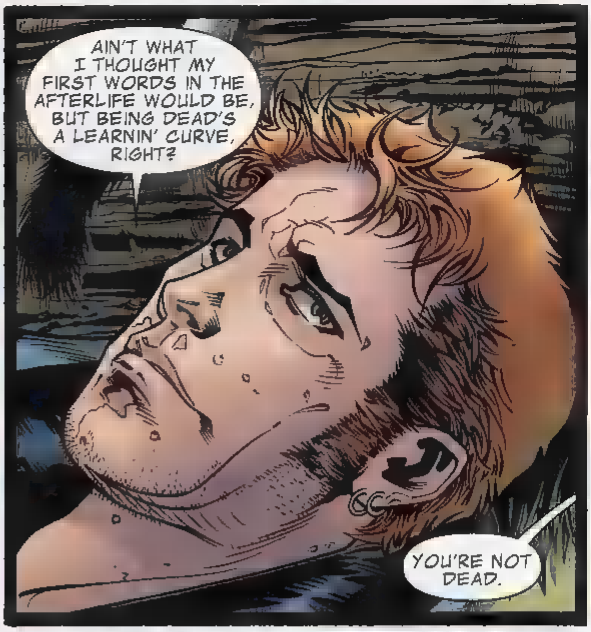
ISSUE ONE
NOVEMBER 2011

THAT'S A GOOD-LOOKING MONKEY.

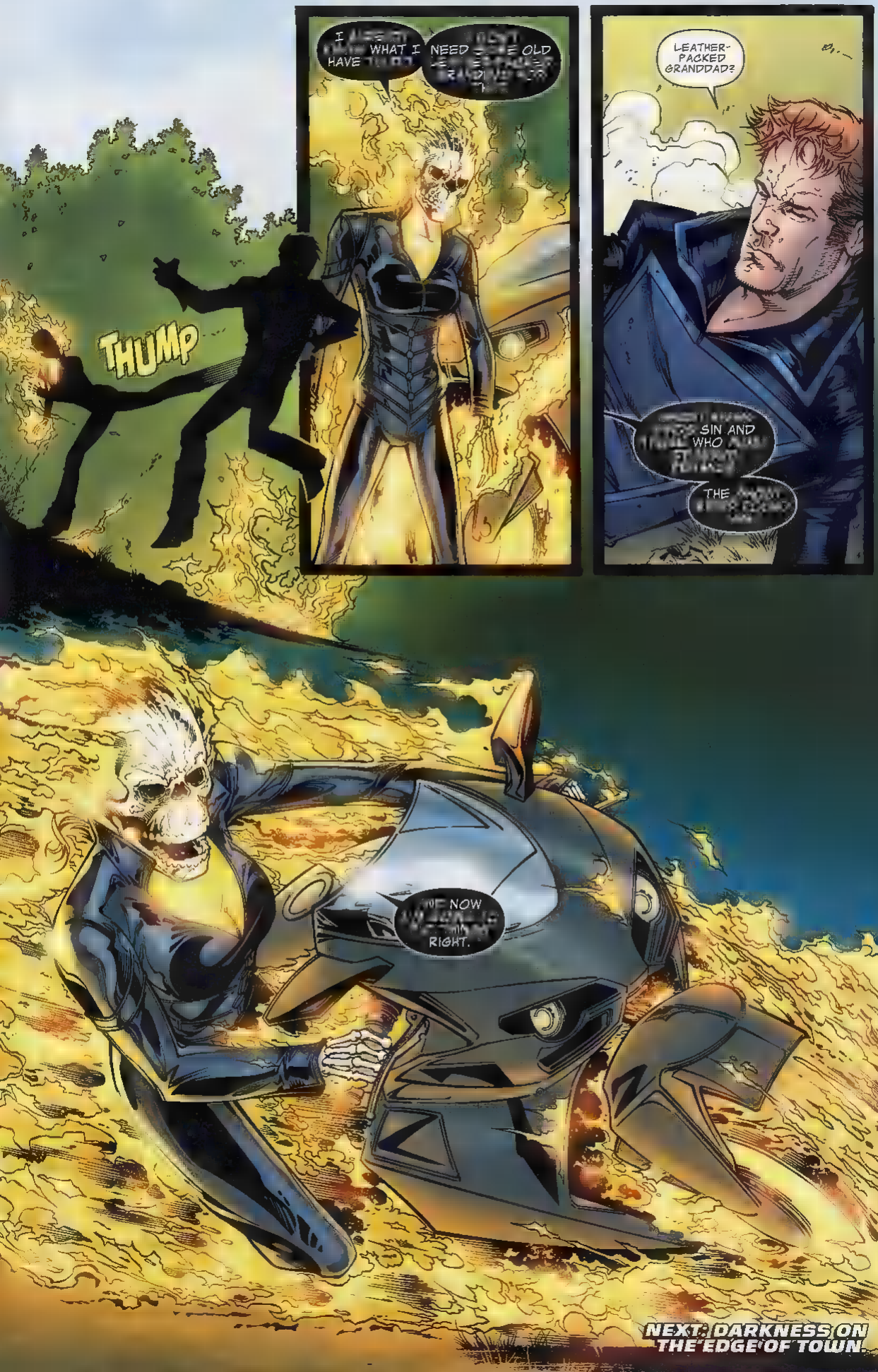

AIN'T WHAT I THOUGHT MY FIRST WORDS IN THE AFTERLIFE WOULD BE, BUT BEING DEAD'S A LEARNIN' CURVE, RIGHT?
YOU'RE NOT DEAD.

ADAM SHOT YOU WITH A BLAST OF HELLFIRE. I PULLED THE HELLFIRE OUT OF YOU.
I THOUGHT I OWED YOU THAT.

I OWE A LOT OF PEOPLE.
THOSE ASTRONAUTS.
THE PEOPLE HERE....

YOU SAID I CAN CONTROL IT. BE WHAT I CHOOSE TO BE.
I'M GOING TO LEARN HOW TO GIVE THESE PEOPLE THEIR SOULS BACK. SOMEONE OUT THERE MUST KNOW HOW.
I'LL HELP YOU.

I'VE... KNOWN GHOST RIDERS.
MAYBE I CAN SHOW YOU WHAT MISTAKES NOT TO MAKE.
YOU GONNA TELL ME WHAT TO DO?



NEXT: DARKNESS ON THE EDGE OF TOWN.

NEXT MONTH:
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